Grad Last Mile Fund

FAQs for Participating Schools

Draft March 2024

IS GRAD LAST MILE FUNDING ONLY FOR TUITION?

Nope! Grad Last Mile funds are intended to mitigate all unexpected financial hardships, which can include tuition. Some examples of unexpected financial hardships students face include medical bills, grocery assistance, transportation support, technological support, etc. Funds can be given for tuition if other financial aid avenues have been exhausted.

ARE ALL STUDENTS AT MY SCHOOL ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Students must be on track academically to graduate in the next semester for 2 year colleges or in the next two semesters for 4 year colleges, they must have demonstrated financial need, and be a resident of Massachusetts.

HOW QUICKLY SHOULD STUDENTS RECEIVE FUNDING?

We recommend school systems to review and distribute funds to students quickly, ideally within 7-10 business days.

WHAT DATA SHOULD WE COLLECT AND WHEN DO WE NEED TO SHARE IT BY?

Each college/university is responsible for tracking recipients and for reporting aggregate student outcomes and individual student success stories to TPI. This information should be reported back to TPI after each semester (for example, the Fall 2023 semester report should be submitted by January 2024). We ask for consolidated interim data in the mid-year (December/January), and for more extensive student data at the end of the school year (June/July). To see what data TPI requests specifically, see the data tracking form available **HERE**.

HOW DO WE GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT THE GRAD LAST MILE FUND AT OUR SCHOOL?

It is up to each school to determine the best way to publicize the fund. A few programs post the application on their website, but most receive referrals from advisors, teachers, and the financial aid office. The programs who put the application on the website reported a high number of applicants and a quicker use of the funds.

WHAT IS THE CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES?

Participating colleges and universities must be able to create an application process, disseminate information about the fund to their student body, asses financial need and respond to requests in a timely manner, share data twice a year with TPI, and identify a point person to be liaison with TPI.